

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 /095 W

-----191410Z 120917 /43

R 181625Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7149

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EX, ET, SO, SU, FT, MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN VIEW OF NORTHEAST AFRICA

REF: STATE 34960

1. MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS,  
AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD OULD SIDI 'ALI, TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 17  
THAT GIRM IS CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA,  
NOTING THAT STATES LOCATED ALONG BOTH SHORES OF RED SEA ARE  
GOOD FRIENDS AND CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF MAURITANIA. HE DECLARED GIRM  
IS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS "IN THWH STRATEGIC AREA" VYRY CSELY,  
AND IS HOPEFUL THAT CURRENT CASTRO MEDIATION EFFORT WILL BE  
SUCCESSFUL. ON MORE PERSONAL BASIS, SIDI 'ALI OBSERVED THAT  
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ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA ARE INCREASINGLY MORE ORIENTED  
TOWARD "SOCIALIST" PHILOSOPHY OF SOVIET UNION, AND SUG-  
GESTED HESITANTLY THAT OBVIOUS EVOLVING PHILOSOPHICAL  
IDENTITY MIGHT OVERCOME PREVIOUS NATIONALISTIC AND  
ETHNIC CONFLICTS. STRESSING COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS,  
MRUKINESS OF SITUATION, AND ABSENCE OF HARD FACTS ON  
RECENT DEVELEOPMENTS, SIDI 'ALI OBSERVED THAT PROBLEM

COULD COME TO INVOLVE KENYA AS WELL BECAUSE ETHNICALLY  
SIMILAR NORTHERN PROVINCES OF KENYA ARE ALSO IN DISPUTE.  
MOREOVER, SUDANESE ALSO CLEARLY INTEGRAL PART OF THE  
PROBLEM.

2. AT NO POINT IN DISCUSSION DID SIDI 'ALI PUT HORN  
PROBLEMS IN ARAB VS AFRICAN OR IN MOSLEM VS NON-MOSLEM  
CONTEXT. INSTEAD, HIS FRAMEWORK WAS CLEARLY AFRICAN  
VS AFRICAN. EVEN IN DISCUSSING ERITREA AND AFTER EX-  
PLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGING ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY OUTSIDERS,  
POLITICAL DIRECTOR DID NOT UTILIZE EITHER RUBRIC SUG-  
GESTED REFTEL.

3. ACCORDING SIDI 'ALI, SUDANESE REQUEST THAT OAU HEAD-  
QUARTERS BE MOVED FROM ADDIS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN. HE  
NOTED WITH AMUSEMENT THAT RECENT SUDANESE DEMAND WAS OP-  
POSED BY LIBYA, BUT NOT TOO LONG AGO IT WAS LARGE WHICH  
WAS DEMANDING RELOCATION OF OAU HEADQUARTERS IN FACE  
OPPOSITION OF KHARTOUM. IN RESPONSE DIRECT QUESTION,  
SIDI 'ALI REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF  
OAU HQ ISSUE AT CAIRO SUMMIT, EVEN IN CORRIDOR CONVER-  
SATIONS, INSISTING THIS WAS PURELY AFRICAN PROBLEM.

4. WHEN OFFERED BAIT THAT PRESENT PAUSE POINT IN CON-  
TINUING ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS PROBABLY JUST AS UN-  
STABLE AS PREVIOUS PAUSE POINTS AND THAT FURTHER READ-  
JUSTMENTS WERE VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE, SIDI 'ALI DECLINED  
COMMENT. SIMILARLY HE DECLINED SEIZE PROF-  
FERED OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON US RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
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ETHIOPIA (AND OTHER HORN PROTAGONISTS).  
HANDYSIDE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NOUAKC00565  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 34960  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3066682  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAURITANIAN VIEW OF NORTHEAST AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, ET, SO, SU, FT, MR, (MUHAMMAD OULD SIDI \ALI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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